

MARVEL

#25

SOULE • MORGAN • MILLA

DAREDEVIL



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

DAREDEVIL

MATT MURDOCK WON HIS FIRST VICTORY IN THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT. HAVING CONVINCED THE COURTS TO ALLOW DAREDEVIL TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY (WHICH, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, IS MATT MURDOCK), A PRECEDENT WAS SET THAT COULD LEGITIMIZE SUPER HEROES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEGAL PROCESS. BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH MATT'S AGENDA--AMONG THEM IS WILSON FISK (A.K.A. THE KINGPIN), WHO HAS BEGUN A TWO-PRONGED STRIKE AGAINST MATT. FISK HAS HIRED THE EXPERT ATTORNEY KNOWN ONLY AS LEGAL TO FIGHT MURDOCK IN COURT, WHILE ENGAGING TOMBSTONE AS PLAN B TO SNUFF OUT MURDOCK IN THE STREETS. MATT'S ONLY CHOICE HAS BEEN TO PUSH FORWARD, AND NOW HE AND HIS OLD FRIEND FOGGY ARE HEADED TO THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE FINAL BATTLE...

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I can't believe I'm actually here.

HOW'S IT LOOK, FOGGY?

YOU CAN'T SEE IT? EVEN WITH YOUR POWERS?

AN OUTLINE. NOT MANY DETAILS.

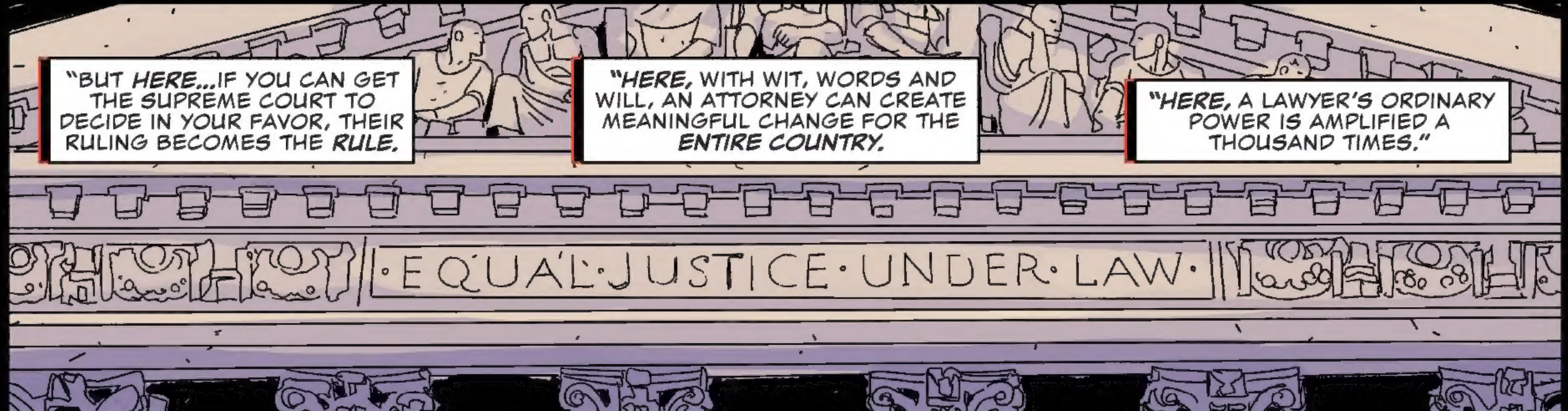
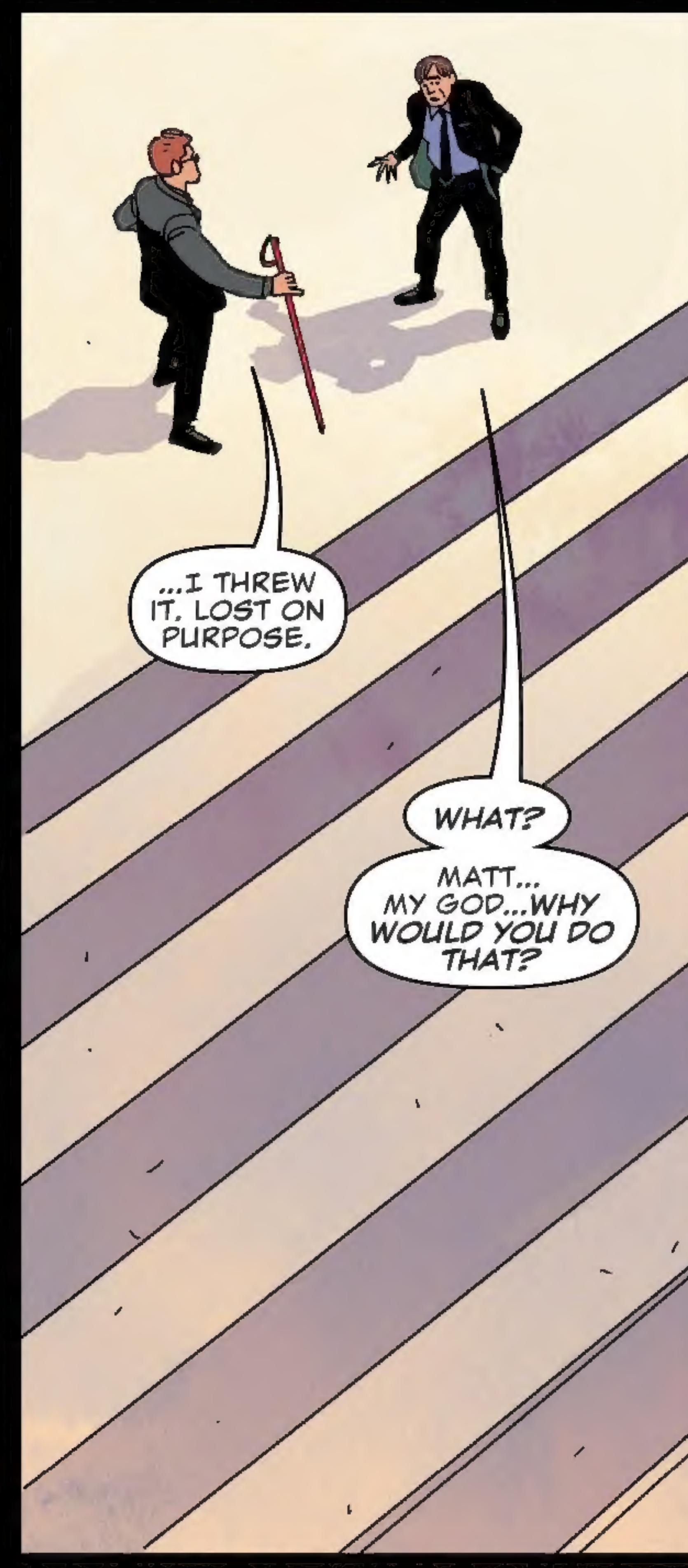
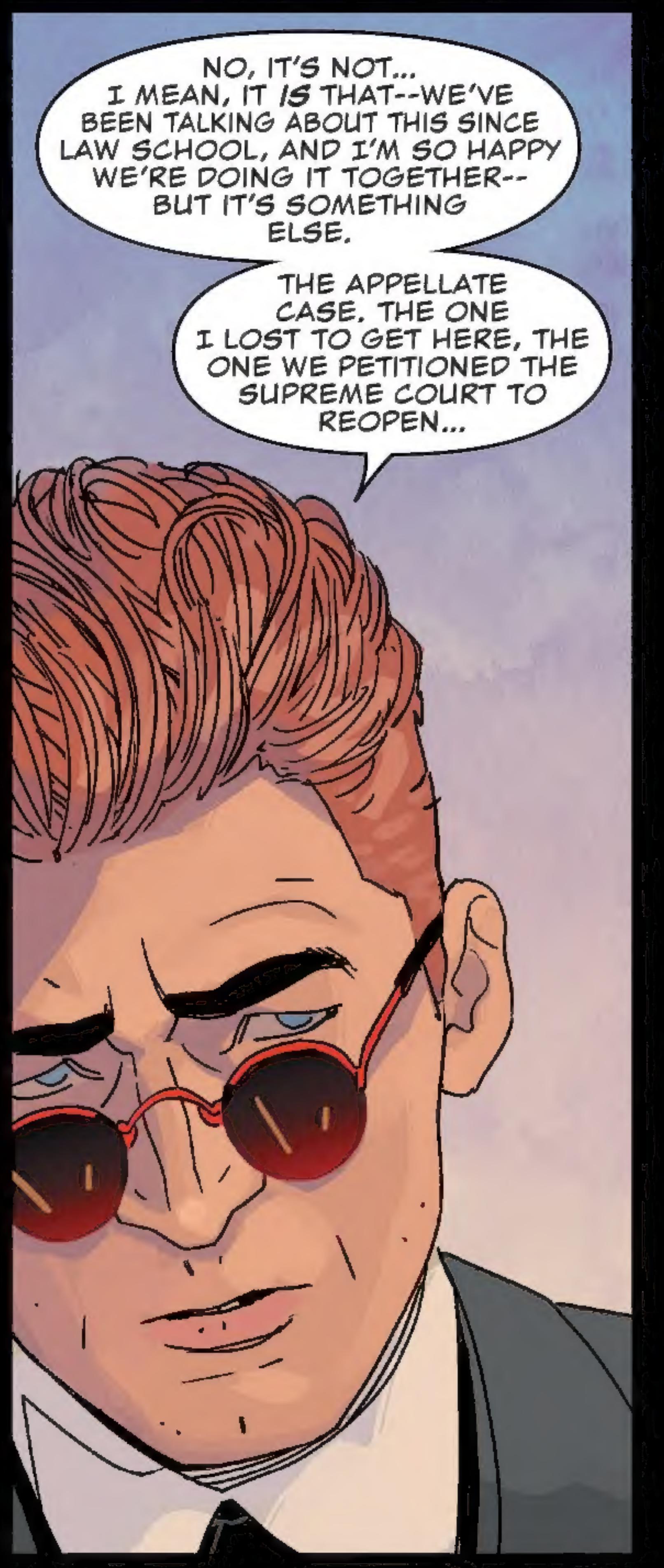
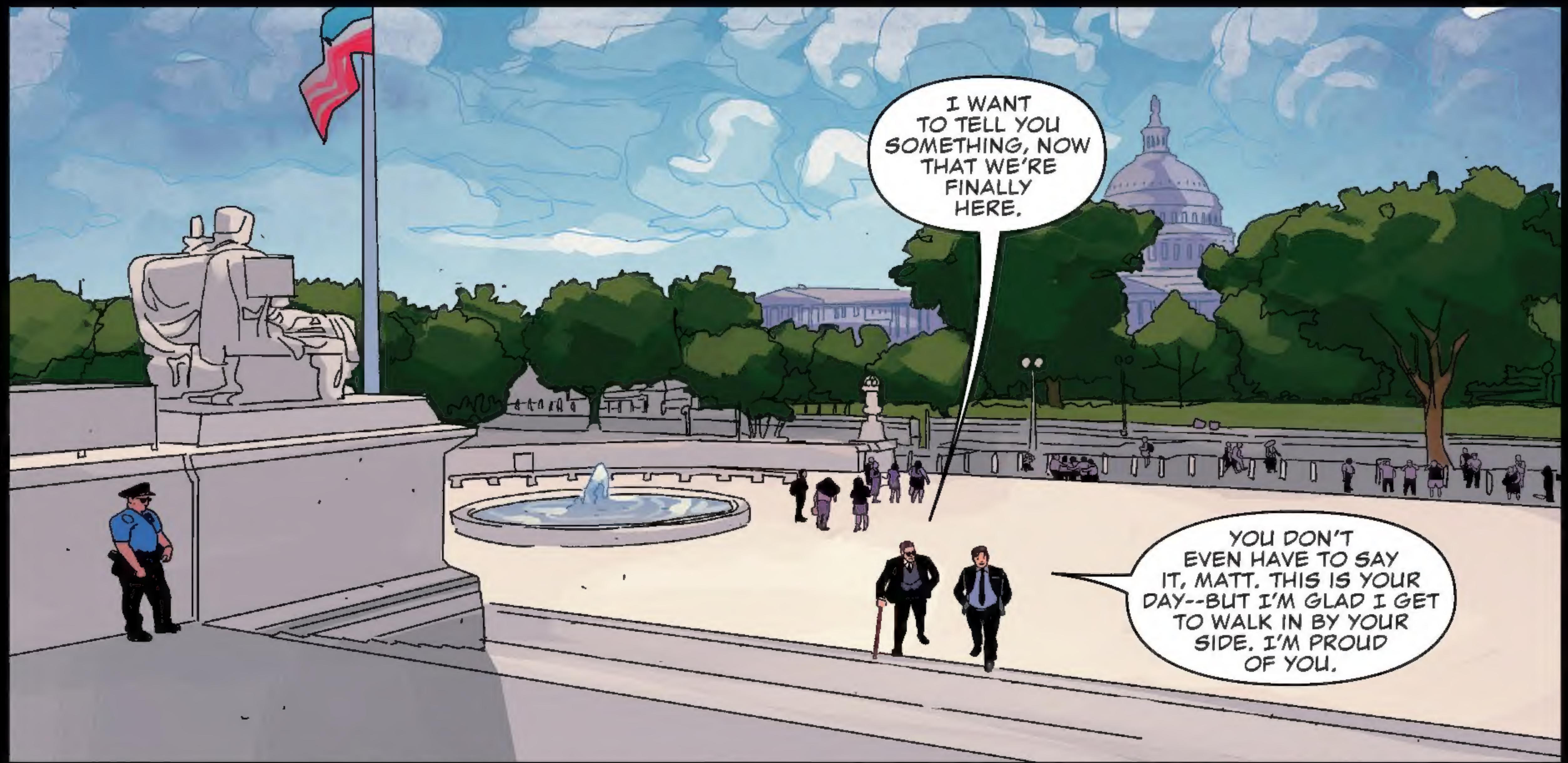
WELL, THEN LET ME BE YOUR EYES, PAL.

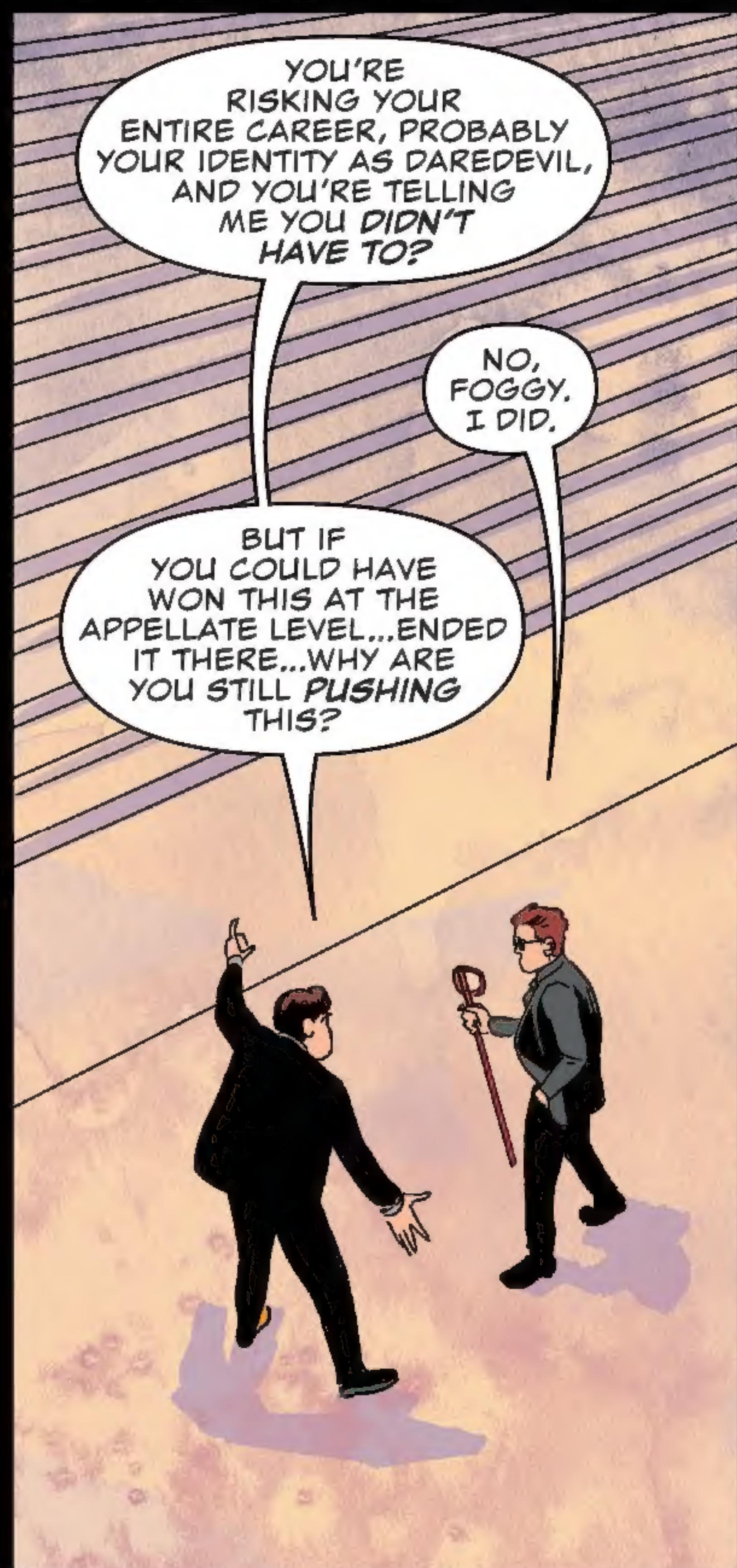
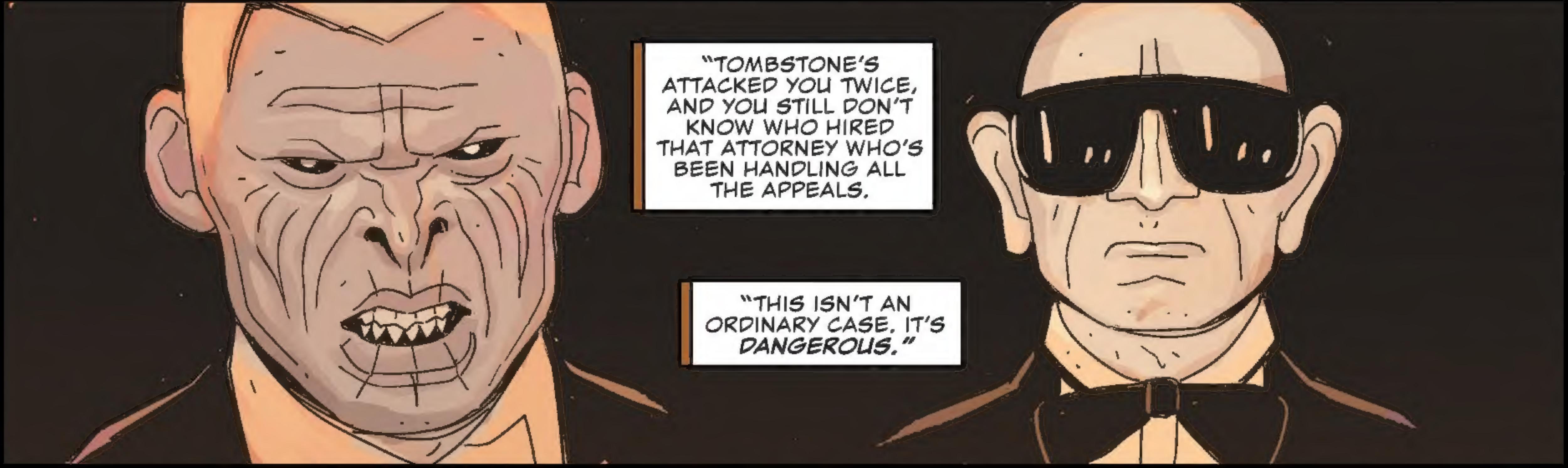
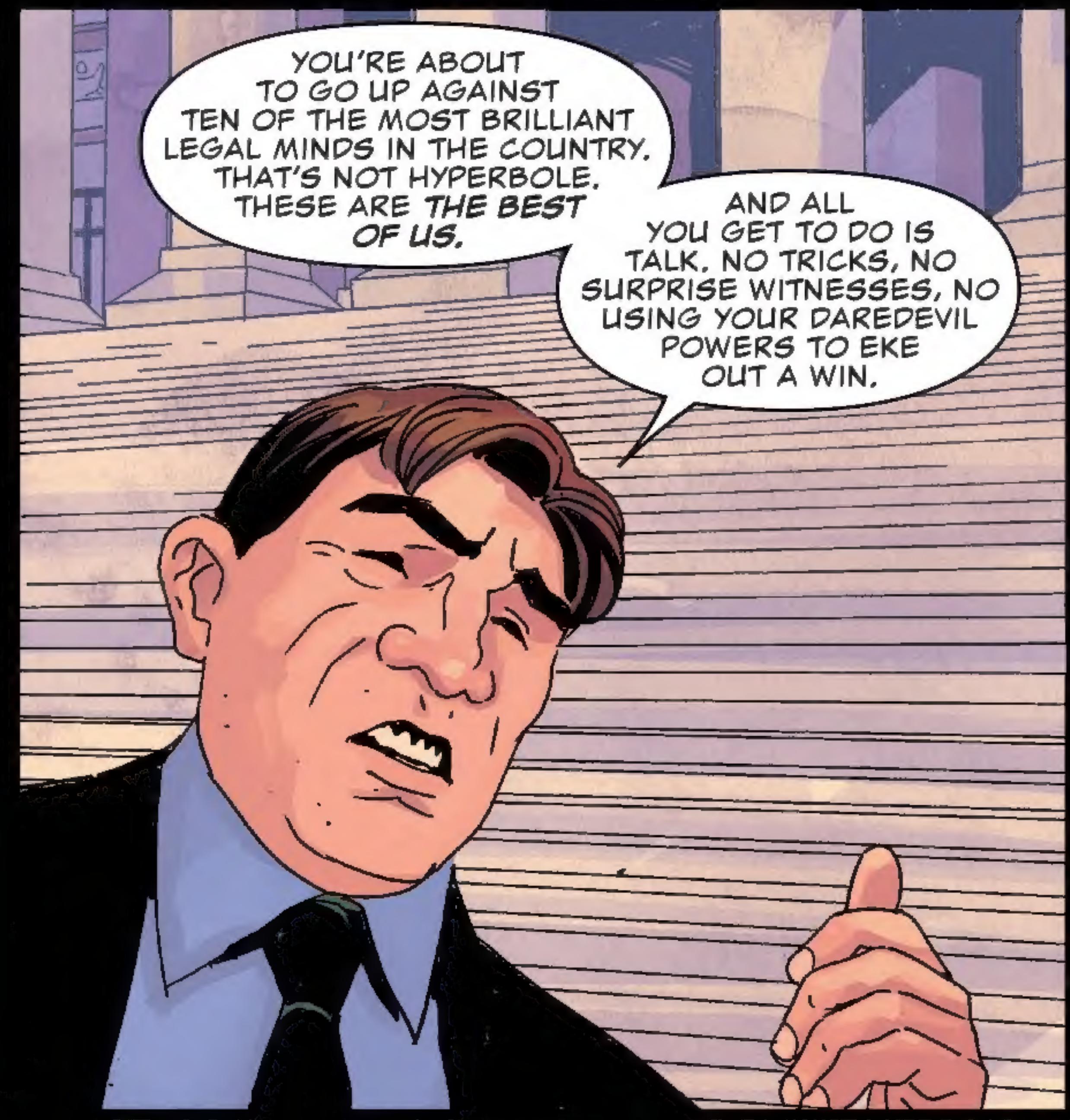
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUPREME CONCLUSION

IT LOOKS FANTASTIC.

The Supreme Court.
My God. The Supreme Court.





A TERRIBLE BAR IN BALTIMORE.



MR.
LINCOLN. I AM
UNIMPRESSED.

LISTEN, YOU
GOTTA UNDERSTAND--
THIS JOB...IT AIN'T EASY.
FIRST TRY, THE HULK SHOWS
UP...SHE DAMN NEAR
KILLS ME!

I TRIED
AGAIN, JUST LIKE YOU
SAID, HAD HIM RIGHT IN MY
SIGHTS, BUT THEN SOMEONE
BREAKS A WHISKY BOTTLE
ON MY FACE, ALMOST
BLINDS ME.

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
FIGHT BLIND? BARELY
GOT AWAY BEFORE
THE COPS SHOWED
UP.

I WAS
GONNA CHECK
IN, BUT YOU KNOW, I
HAD TO RECOVER,
AND THEN...

ENOUGH,
TOMBSTONE.

MURDOCK
IS AT THE SUPREME
COURT TODAY. YOU WILL
COMPLETE THE JOB
I HIRED YOU
TO DO.





SUPREME COURT BUILDING.
LAWYER'S LOUNGE.

HI, MY NAME'S
DANA. I'M ONE OF THE
CLERKS HERE. HAVE EITHER
OF YOU PRESENTED ORAL
ARGUMENTS TO THE
COURT BEFORE?



OKAY, THEN, TO
REFRESH: YOU EACH
GET 30 MINUTES TO ADDRESS
THE JUSTICES--THEY'LL ASK
YOU QUESTIONS IF THEY
HAVE THEM.

YOU CAN
CALL THE JUSTICES
BY NAME, BUT IF YOU
FORGET, YOU CAN JUST
SAY "YOUR HONOR."
THAT'S FINE.

JUST SIT
TIGHT HERE. YOU'LL
BE CALLED WHEN THE
JUSTICES ARE READY.
WON'T BE LONG.



EXCITING,
HUH?

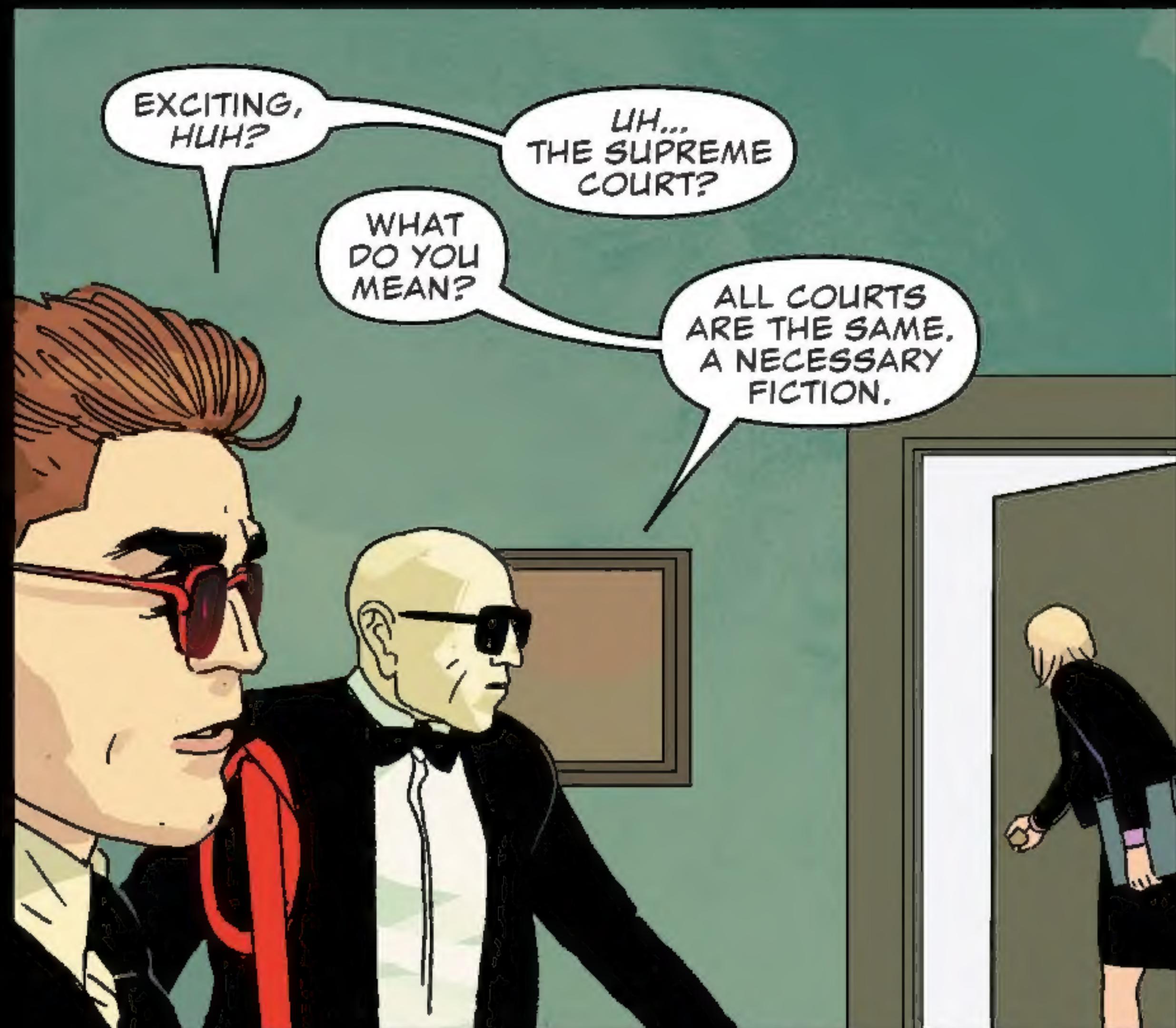
UH...
THE SUPREME
COURT?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

ALL COURTS
ARE THE SAME.
A NECESSARY
FICTION.

OKAY, I'LL
BITE.

WHAT
THE HELL
DOES THAT
MEAN?



LAW IS THE SECRET LANGUAGE.

THE MORE FLUENTLY YOU SPEAK IT, THE MORE EASILY HUMANITY'S SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS BEND TO YOUR WILL.

FROM SPEEDING TICKETS TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS--IF YOU SPEAK THE LAW, THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE.

LAWYERS ARE MAGICIANS.

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW WIDELY ACCEPTED IT IS THAT CRIMINALS WILL FACE NO PENALTY IF THEY SIMPLY HIRE A SUFFICIENTLY SKILLED ATTORNEY? THAT IS AMAZING.

NO ONE EVEN CONSIDERS IT PARTICULARLY UNFAIR. THEY JUST ACCEPT OUR POWER AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE WORLD.

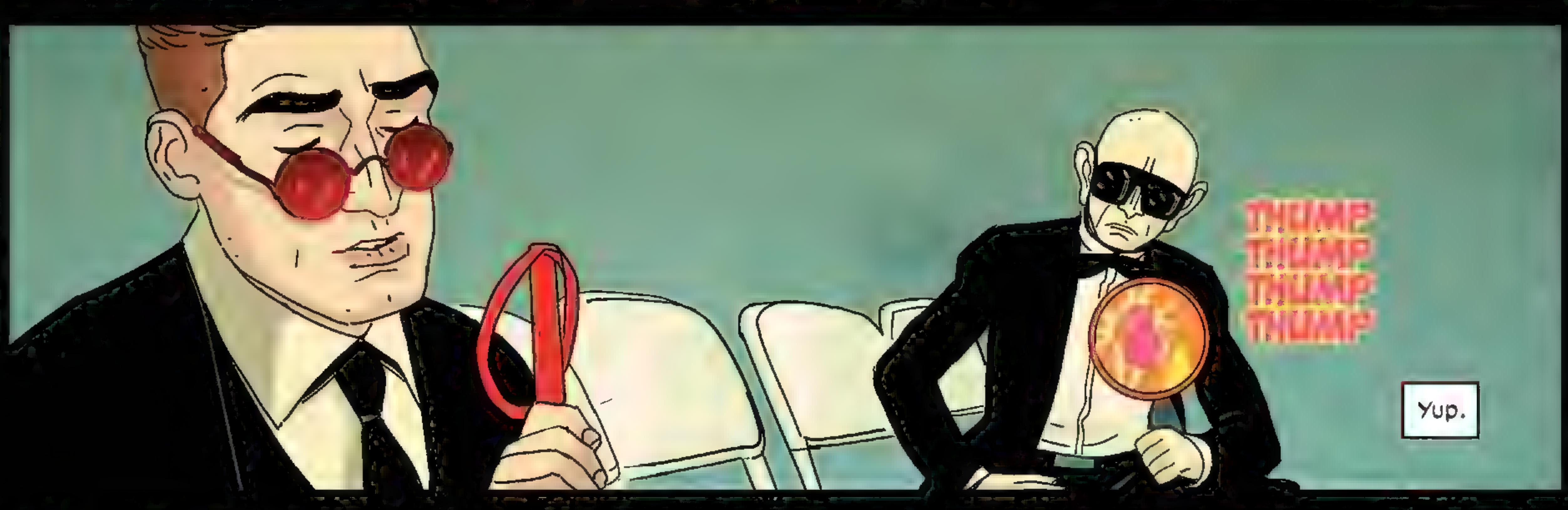
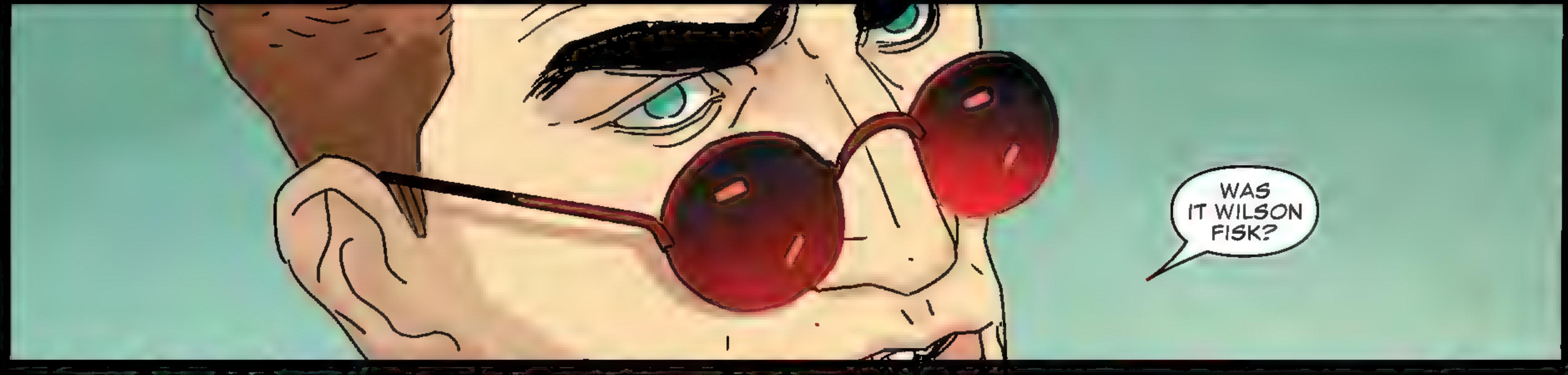
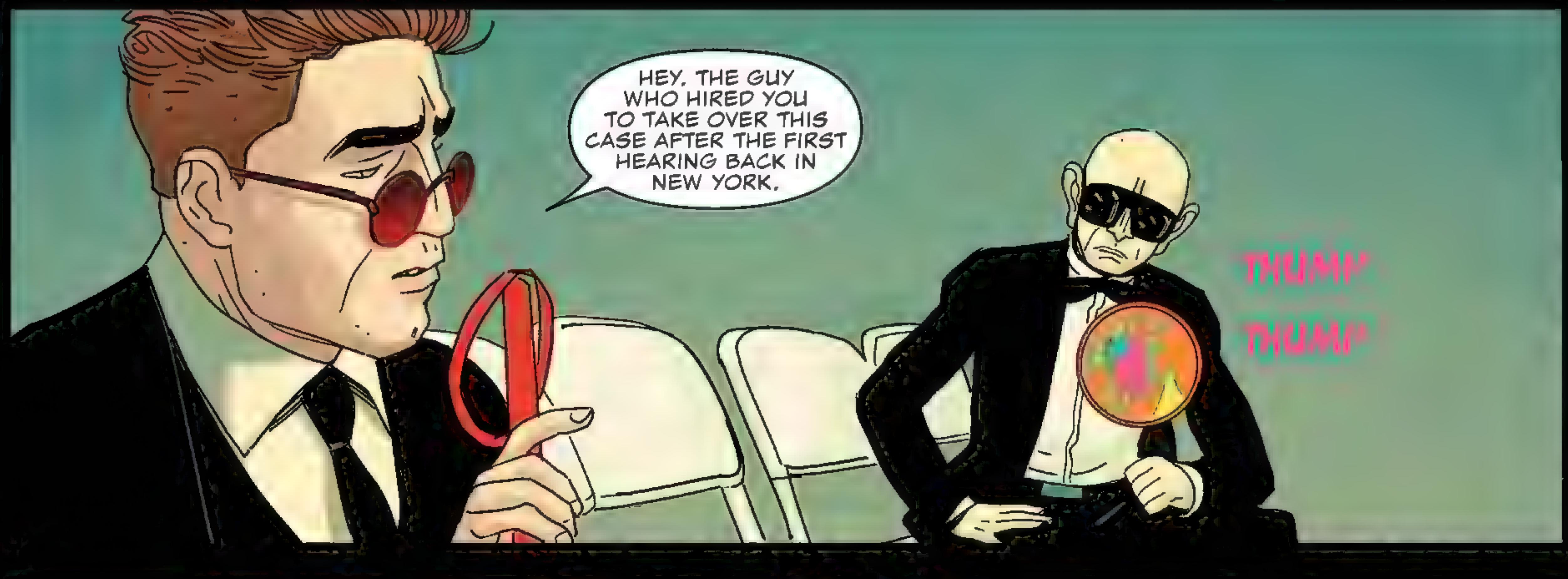
AND IT IS.

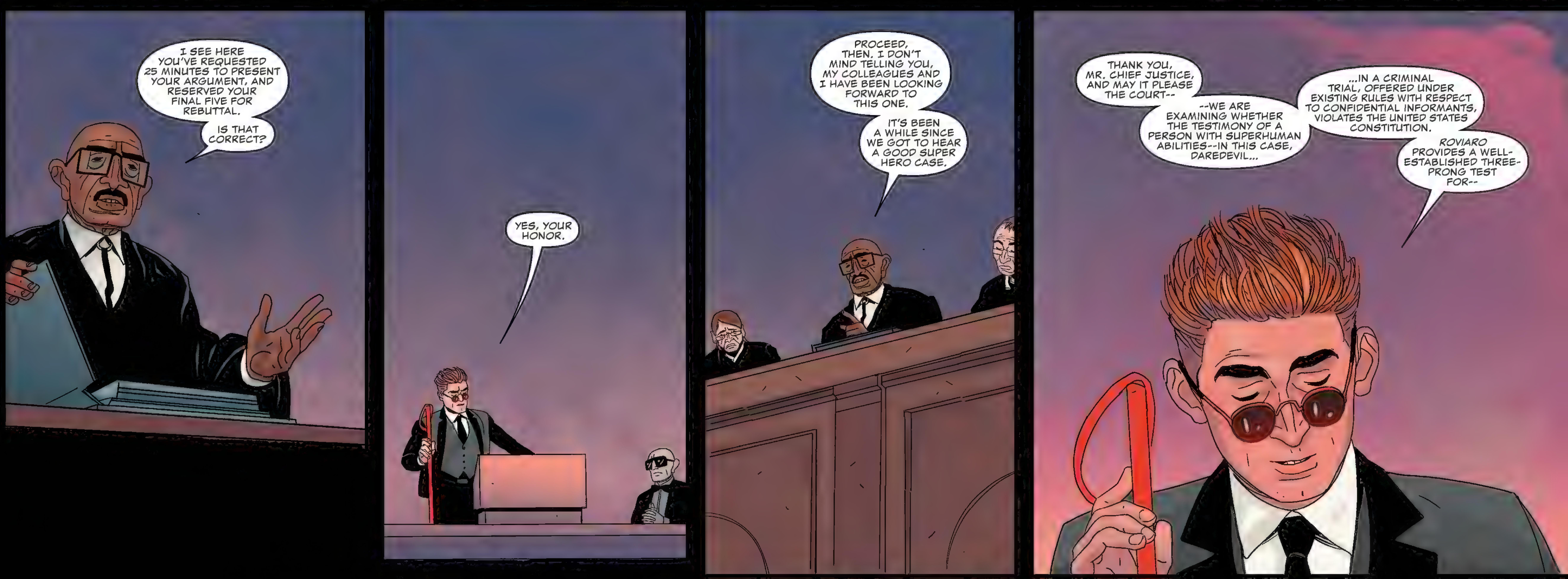
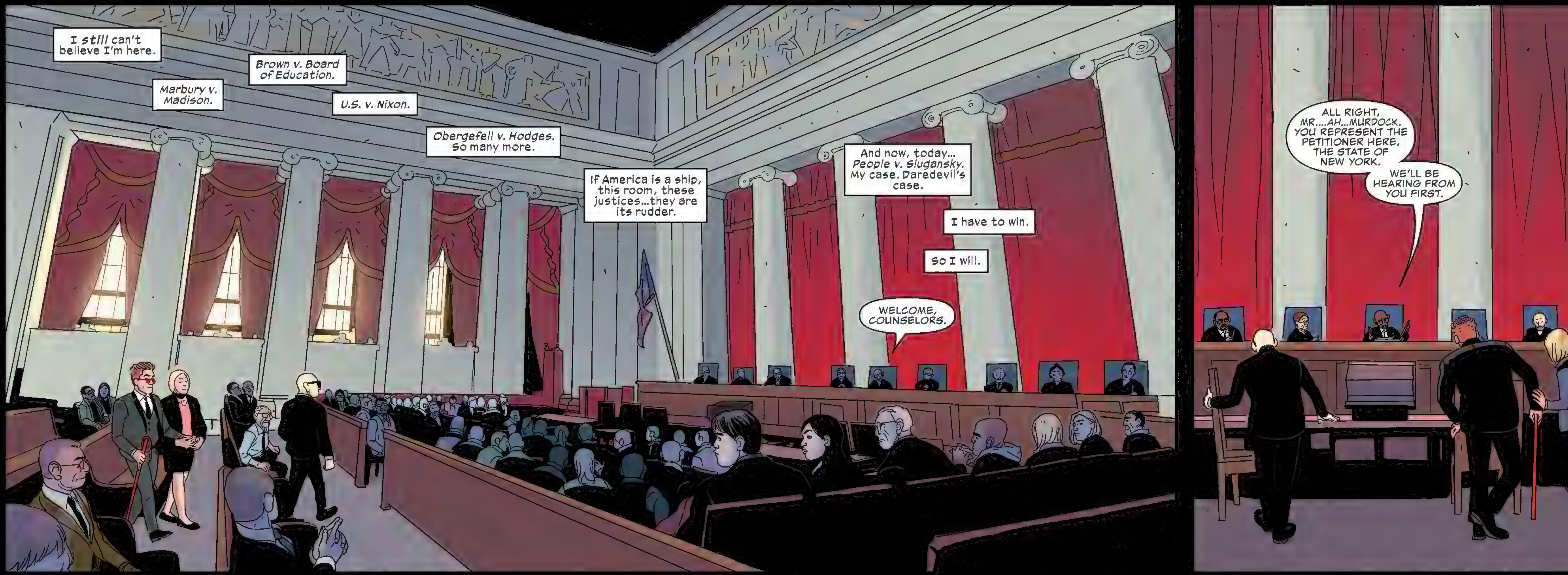
THE LAW IS NOT ABSOLUTE, AND IT IS NOT APPLIED EQUALLY. THAT IDEA IS ANOTHER NECESSARY FICTION.

THE VARIABLE IN THAT UNEVEN APPLICATION--THE SINGLE FACTOR THAT DETERMINES WHETHER A GUILTY MAN GOES FREE OR SPENDS HIS LIFE IN PRISON...

...IS THE LAWYER.

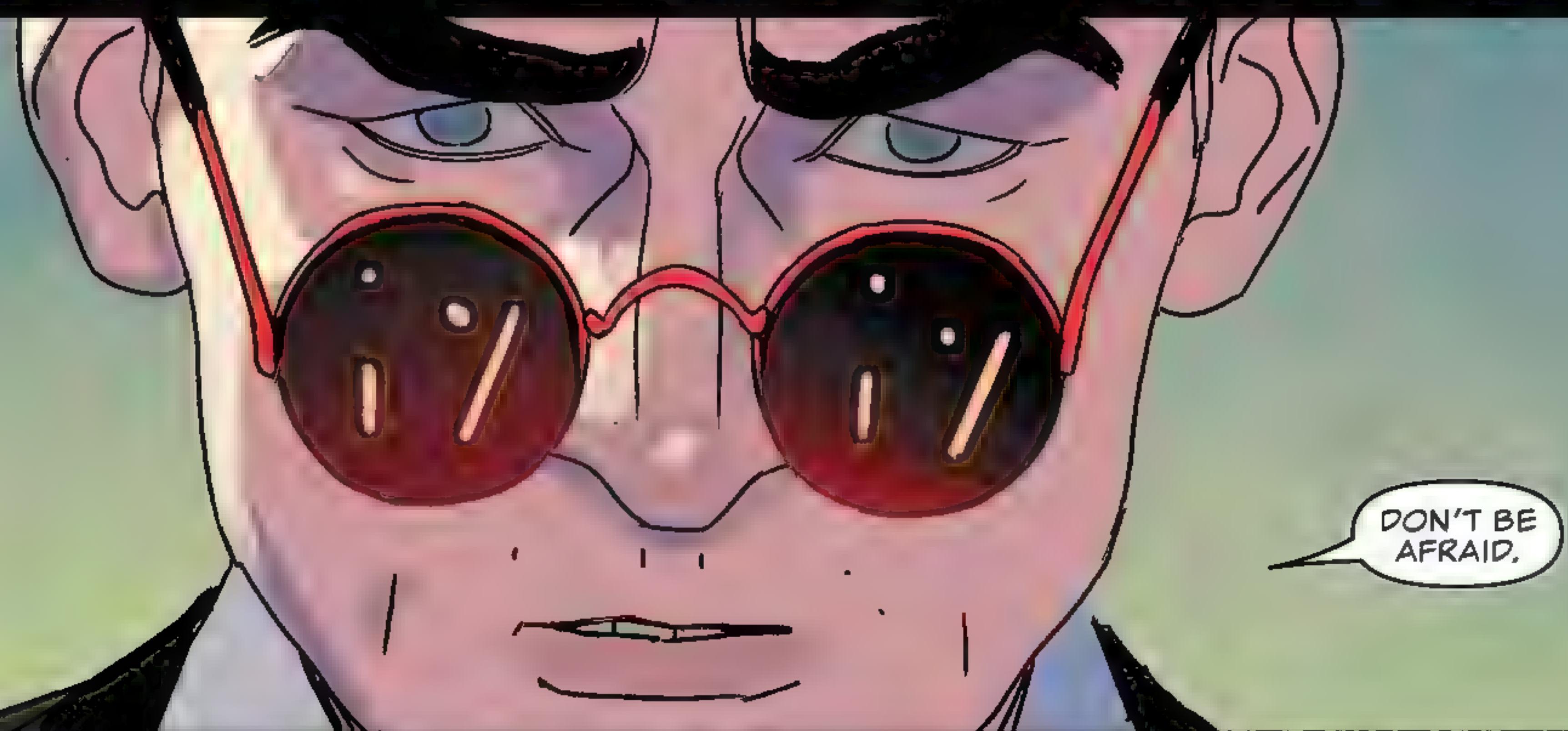
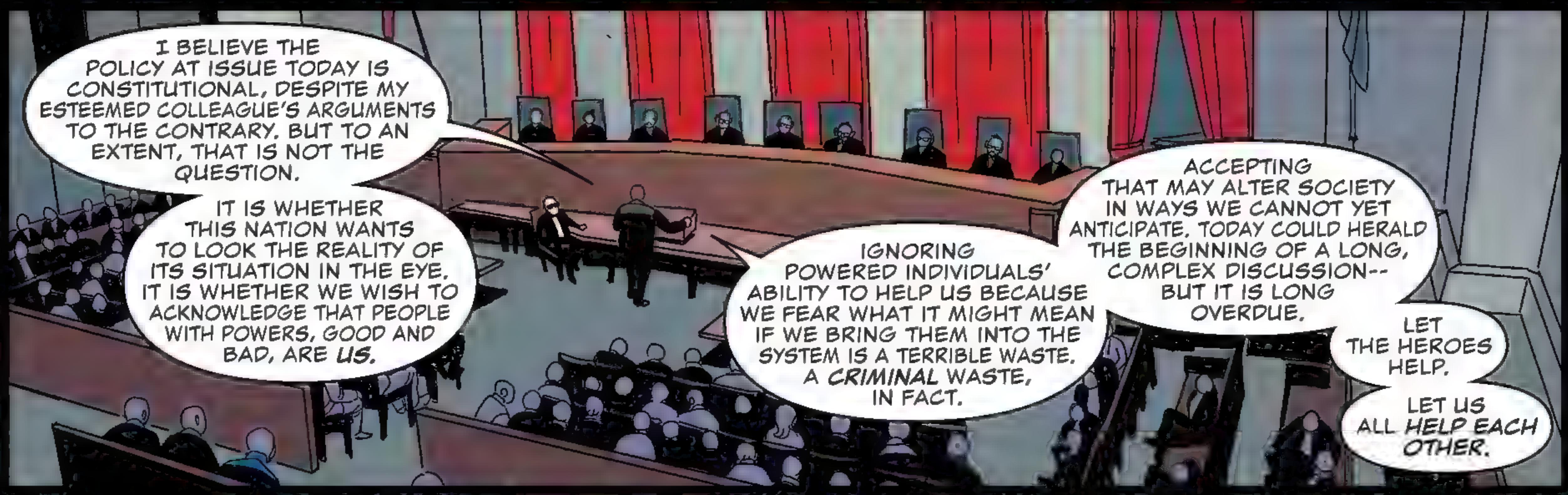
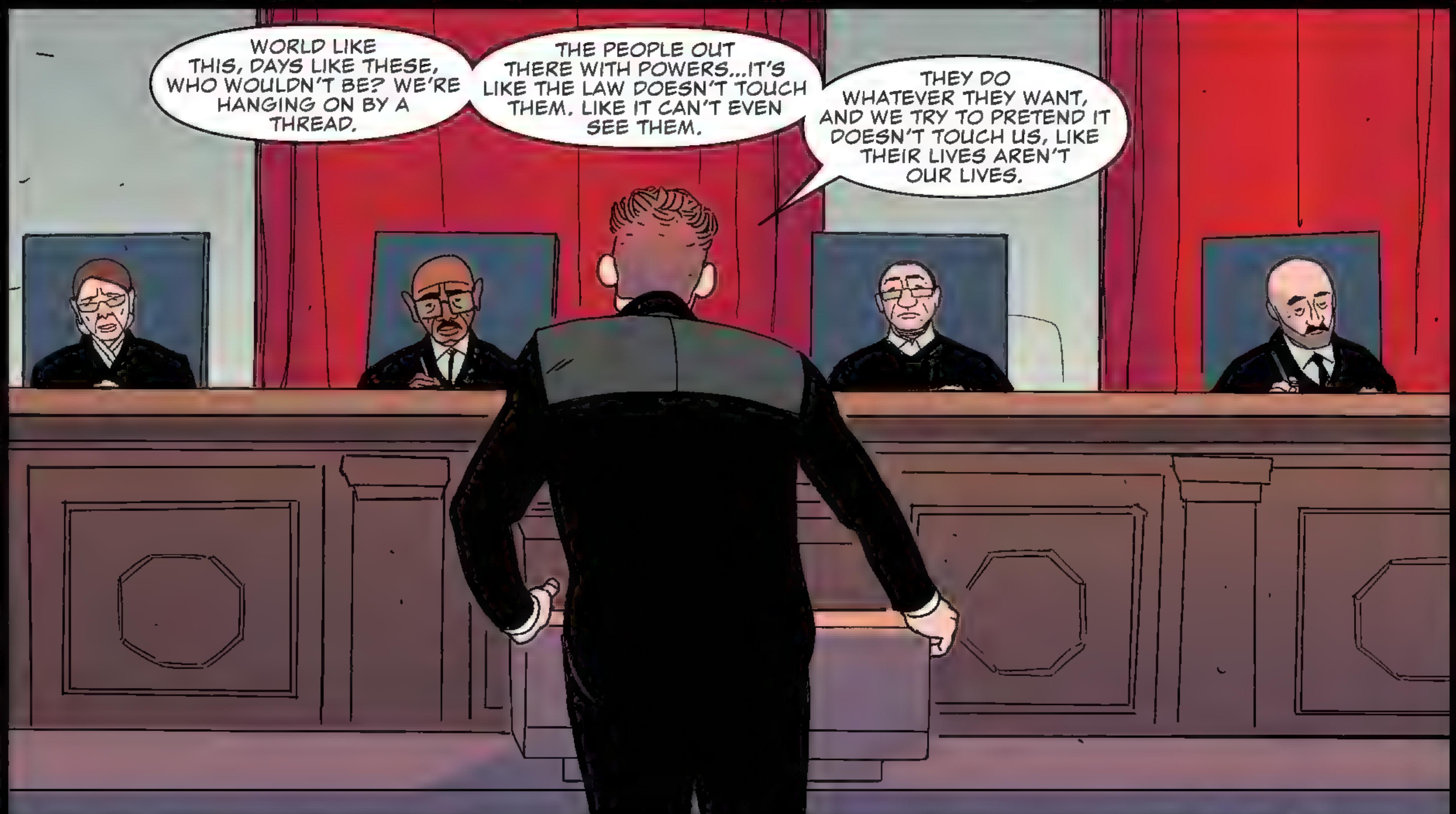
THAT IS WHY I PRACTICE.











TEN DAYS LATER.

--ITS RULING IN THE HISTORIC PEOPLE V. SLUGANSKY CASE, A 7-2 DECISION THAT EXTENDS SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY.

THE CASE, CONTROVERSIAL IN SOME QUARTERS, IS EXPECTED TO HAVE WIDE-RANGING EFFECTS ON LAW-ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

IT EFFECTIVELY TRANSFORMS MANY OF THE POWERED HEROES FROM VIGILANTES, TO WHOM THE LAW HAD TO TURN A BLIND EYE, INTO ACTUAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.



THE CASE WAS SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED BY MANHATTAN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK, HIMSELF KNOWN FOR HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE POWERED COMMUNITY.

WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE FULL IMPACT OF THE SLUGANSKY RULING, OUR ANALYSTS BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE A DRASTIC EFFECT ON CRIME RATES ACROSS THE NATION.

MY GOD,
MATT. YOU DID IT.

BZZ

HUH.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

HEY, MATT--
JUST SAW THE COURT
ISSUED ITS RULING. CONGRATULATIONS,
MAN! YOU ACTUALLY PULLED IT OFF. YOU
READ THE DECISION YET? YOU
GOTTA SEND IT TO ME.

I WILL, FOGGY,
AND YEAH, IT'S GREAT...
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY
I'M CALLING.

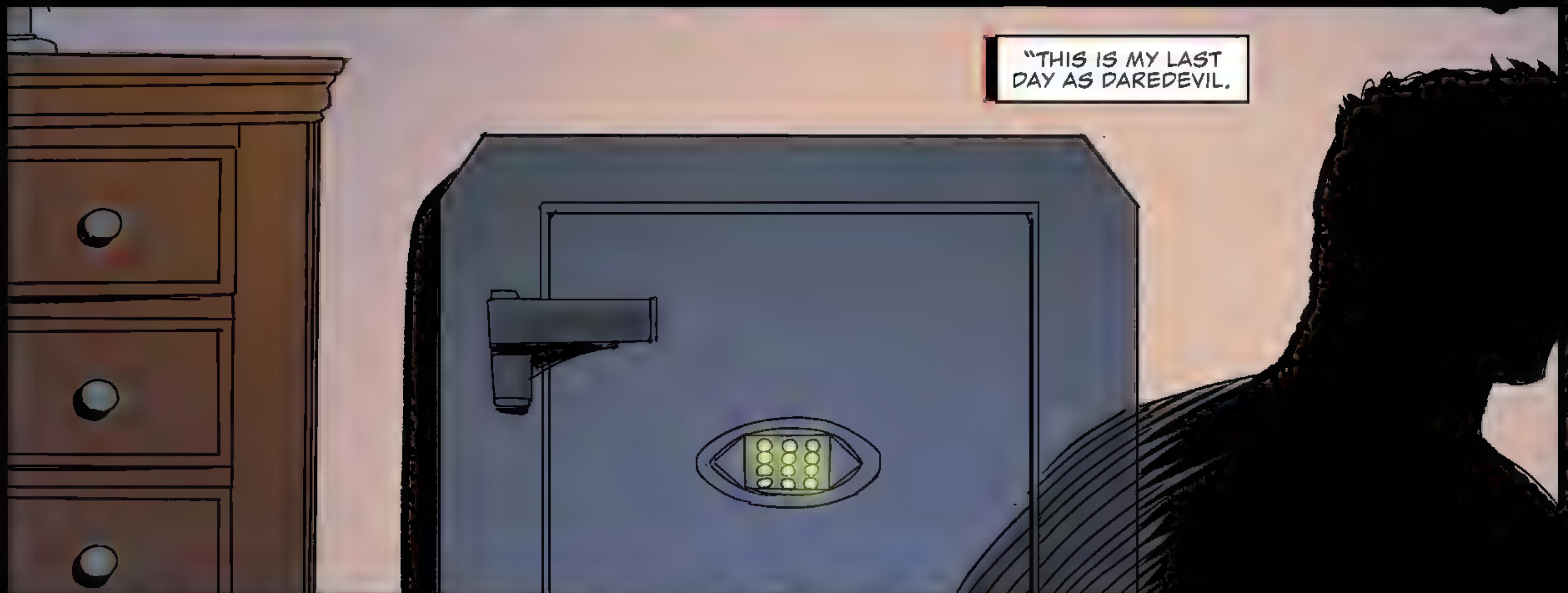
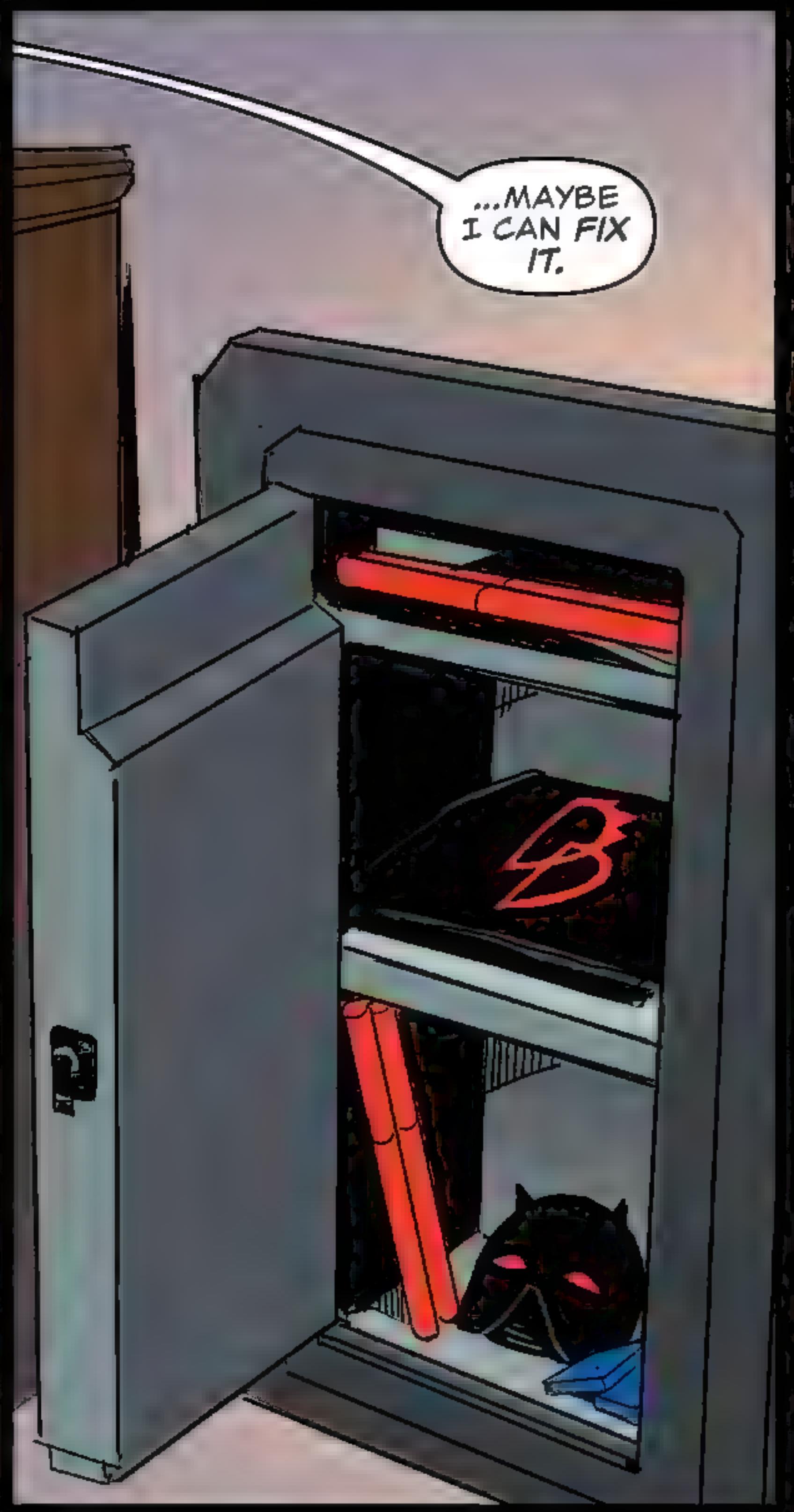
YOU
REMEMBER
YOU ASKED ME A
QUESTION, BACK IN
D.C.? WHY I DECIDED
TO TAKE THIS CASE TO
THE MAT, WHEN IT WAS
PROBABLY A STUPID
IDEA, ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED?



YEAH, I
MIGHT REMEMBER
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT.

IT'S BEEN
BOthering me THAT
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE
AN ANSWER. I'VE BEEN
THINKING ABOUT IT
EVER SINCE.

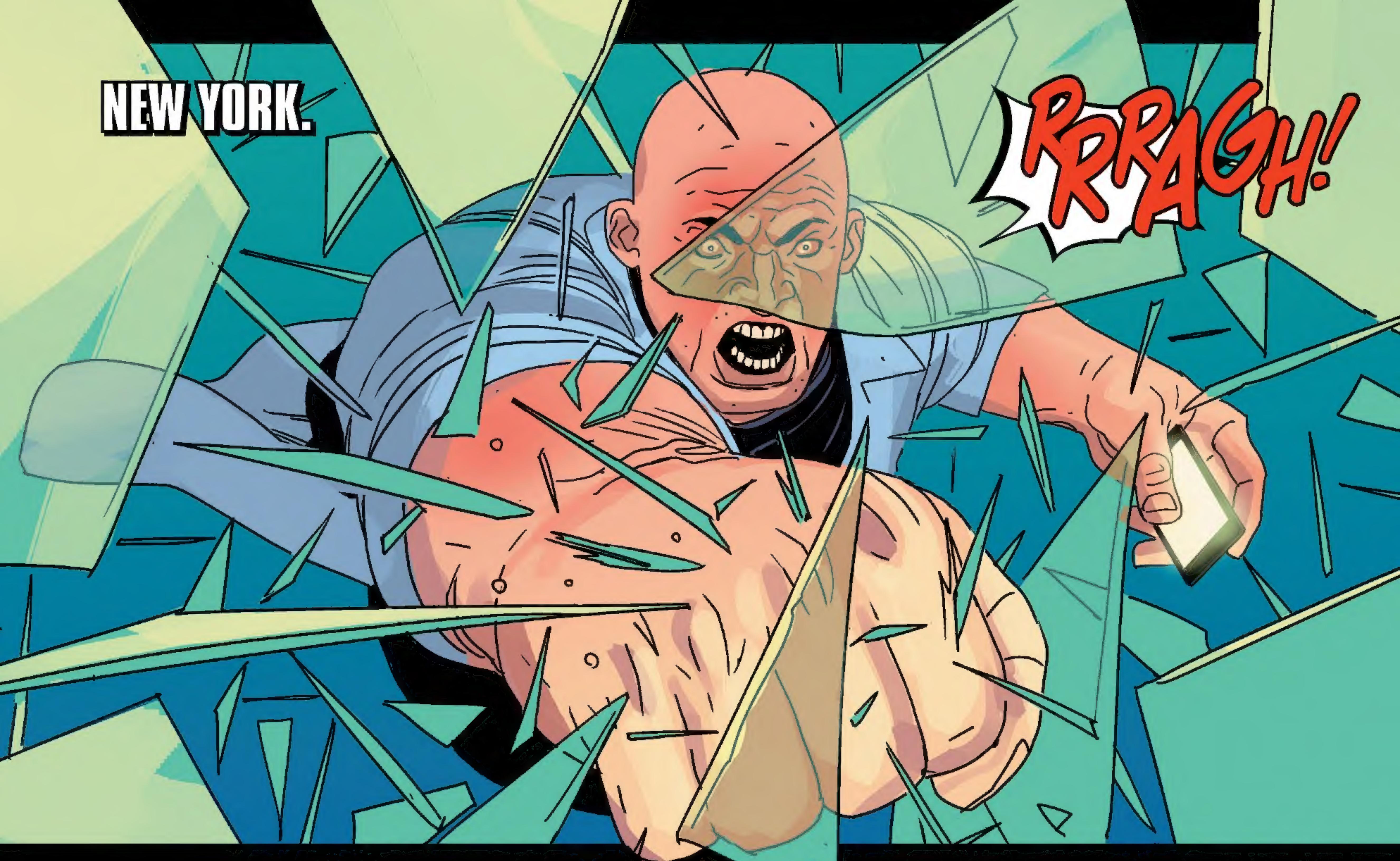
I
THINK I HAVE IT,
THOUGH.







NEW YORK.

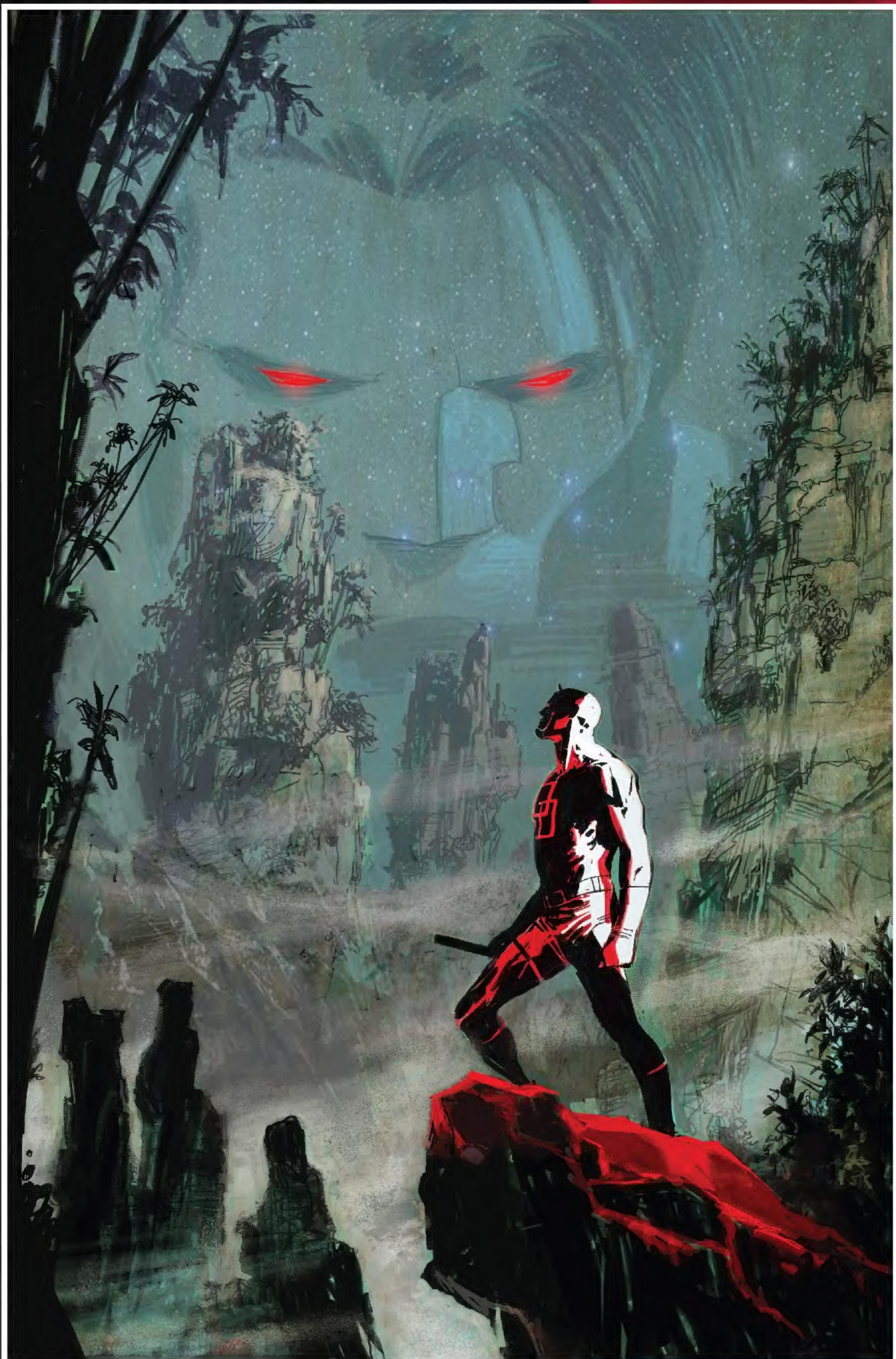


NEXT: LAND
OF THE BLIND!

NEXT ISSUE:

— NEW ARC STARTS HERE —

"THE LAND OF THE BLIND"



DAREDEVIL #26

